

FORM B – BUILDING

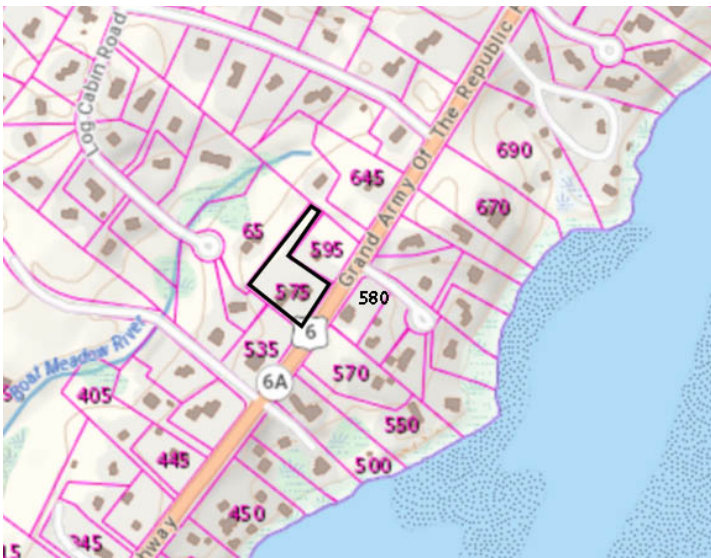
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



View from east.

Locus Map (north at top)



Source: Mass GIS Oliver Parcel Viewer

Recorded by: Kathryn Grover & Neil Larson
Larson Fisher Associates
Organization: Eastham Historical Commission
Date: June 2020

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

21-7	ORLEANS		EAS.11
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Town/City: Town of Eastham

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
South Eastham

Address: 575 State Highway

Historic Name: Clarington Jr. & Julia F. Smith House & Barn

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1866

Source: deeds, censuses, historic maps, vital records

Style/Form: Greek Revival/crosswing

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Barn (connected)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
Porch on wing enclosed

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.098

Setting: The house and associated buildings are situated on the State Highway amid dense roadside development comprised of historic properties and more recent summer cottages. It overlooks Town Cove across the highway.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

575 State Highway

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Clarington Jr. and Julia F. Smith House & Barn, built ca. 1866, is a story-and-a-half wood frame single dwelling with a crosswing plan. The facade of the front-gable section contains an entrance with a door with arched windows and an Italianate hood mounted on massive scrolled brackets offset by two windows; three windows are crowded into the upper-story gable, and there is a triangular feature in the apex. This together with corner pilasters and pronounced friezes associate the design with the enduring Greek Revival taste in the town. The façade of the cross-gable wing is set back from the gable front and contains a second entrance now concealed in an enclosed porch. The north side of the house contains two windows indicating the presence of two principal rooms within; a chimney is located in the dividing partition. A second chimney is centered in the kitchen wing. A one-story L-shaped wing connects the kitchen wing to a story-and-a-half barn with a front-gable façade containing wagon doors on the first floor, now walled over, and a triple window with Queen Anne sash, which was a later addition likely replacing a mow door expected in this location. (This renovation is similar to that which occurred in the adjoining farm at 475 State Highway (EAS.10). What is likely an original window in above it in the apex. A shed-roof wing is appended to the south side of the barn, possibly added as a hothouse. The house and barn are sited in the center of an L-shaped one-acre parcel set back from the street behind a large yard. Driveways enter both ends of the frontage.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The house now numbered 575 State Highway probably was built on or near the site of an earlier house. In 1817 Eastham carpenter Josiah Doane sold Alvan Rogers a house and ten acres south of the home of Henry Mayo on the state highway for \$605.¹ Rogers (1793-1854), the son of Judah and Rebecca Lothrop Rogers of Orleans, had married Polly (sometimes Mary) Doane (1793-78) of Orleans the year before, and census clearly show his household in this vicinity between 1820 and 1850.² His son Alvan Jr. was born in 1821, married in 1843 and widowed in 1845, married Brewster native Susan Payne in 1853. In April the next year Alvan Rogers Sr. died, and he left his estate to his widow for her lifetime.

The 1855 census lists Alvan Rogers Jr. as a 34-year-old master mariner in a household with his wife and mother, his married sister Zilla Lincoln, her husband Hinckley, and their two young children. They were probably all living at Polly Rogers's 575 State Highway house; Hinckley and Zilla Lincoln's house at 475 State Highway (EAS.10) was built shortly after, between 1856 and 1858. By 1860 Alvan and Susan Rogers and their son Frank had moved to Boston, where Rogers was a currier, but by 1865 the family had returned to Eastham, almost certainly to his mother's house. Rogers's mother Polly had moved in with her daughter Zilla Lincoln in 1860 but returned live with her son Alvan by 1865.

A plaque on the house carries the date ca. 1863. The extant house may have been built for Alvan Rogers Jr. around that time, or it could have been built for Clarington Smith Jr. (1841-1926) who bought the property from Rogers in 1866. The 1870 census enumerated both Smith, a master mariner, and his father Clarington Smith (1812-1878), a farmer, with their wives and children; the elder Smith was shown as the owner of real estate. Clarington Smith Jr. had married Julia F. Smith, daughter of Timothy Smith (1800-1857) and his wife Ruth F. Knowles of Eastham, in 1865; it seems likely that his father bought the house primarily for his son and his family. Clarington Smith Sr. died in 1878, and in 1880 his son was living in the house with his wife and their children Charles C., Reuben W., Mabel E., and Walter N. Cape newspapers noted that he first went to sea when he was fourteen years old. He was engaged largely in the coastwise trade, and in 1895 his wife and youngest daughter accompanied him on a voyage to Texas. An article written at the time of his sixtieth wedding anniversary stated that he had "twice sailed around the world and visited nearly all of the large seaports."³

¹ Josiah Doane to Alven Rogers, 2 October 1817, BCD 999041:450

² A *Barnstable Patriot* notice on 18 October 1837 also indicates that Alvan Rogers Sr. was in this neighborhood: an Eastham committee petitioned the Barnstable County Commission to alter the County Road between the houses of the widowed Polly Smith and Barnabas F. Knowles because it was "extremely sandy and somewhat circuitous, and does not admit of hardening on account of its moveable nature" and suggested moving the road to the east "by passing near the houses of Joseph Lincoln, Henry Mayo, Alvan Rogers, and Jabez Sparrow," whose houses are all indicated on State Highway in South Eastham on the 1858 map (Mayo's house then owned by his son Abijah).

³ "Orleans: Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary," *Yarmouth Register*, 9 May 1925, 5.

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In 1900 the census lists "Clarendon" Smith in this neighborhood with his wife Julia and children Reuben W. and Ruth, the latter born in 1883. Smith retired from the sea about 1905 and served the town of Eastham as an assessor, selectman, and overseer of the poor for six years after his retirement.⁴ In 1910 and 1920 the censuses list Smith and his wife Julia alone in the household. Clarington Smith Jr. died in September 1926, and about four years later his children sold 575 State Highway to John S. Rogers of South Orleans.⁵ John Saltonstall Rogers (1903-94) was the son of Eli F. and Hattie Clifford Rogers of Orleans, and if he was related to former owner Alvan Rogers it can only have been distantly. In 1930 he was working on the large duck and chicken farm of W. H. Mayo in East Orleans and living in the Orleans household of his father, an estate caretaker. In 1940 he was still working for Mayo, but he was by then living at 575 State Highway with his wife Grace, a native of Pennsylvania, and their two-year-old daughter Cornelia.

John S. and Grace D. Rogers owned 575 State Highway until March 1968, by which point they had moved to Hyannis and sold the property to Dorothy K. Hatch and her daughter Phyllis Hatch White.⁶ Dorothy Keith Hatch (1902-93) was born in Paris, Texas, and was the wife of Joseph Philip Hatch (1896-1959), who was director of Philadelphia's Port Bureau from 1945, when it was founded, until he died. He was a native of Damariscotta, Maine, a graduate of Boston University, and a former produce broker in Boston and for the federal government. Phyllis White, born in 1928 in Boston, taught school in the Nauset school system for thirty years.

In 1992 Dorothy Hatch sold her undivided half-interest in the South Eastham property to her daughter, and in 2001 Phyllis Hatch White added her nephew Peter A. Nelson of Accord, New York, to the title. White died in June 2012, and Nelson was the owner of record in 2020.⁷

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MAPS

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⁴ *Sandwich Observer*, 2 May 1911, 4. The May 1985 Massachusetts Historical Commission building form for 575 State Highway states that in his retirement Clarington Smith Jr. planted and maintained trees and hedges around the new (1912) Eastham Town Hall, which was donated by his brother-in-law Timothy Smith Jr.

⁵ Charles C. Smith, Eastham; Mabel E. Smith, Natick; Ruth K. Smith, Rutherford NJ, and Reuben W. Smith, Orleans, to John S. Rogers, Orleans, 4 October 1930, BCD 480:283. *Yarmouth Register*, 4 October, 6, reported that John Rogers of South Orleans had purchased "the home of the late Clarington Smith of South Eastham." For obituaries of Clarington Smith see "South Eastham: Capt. Clarington Smith," *Hyannis Patriot*, 9 Sept 1926, 3, and "Orleans: Captain Clarington Smith," *Yarmouth Register*, 11 Sept 1926, 5.

⁶ John S. and Grace D. Rogers, Hyannis, to Phyllis N. White and Dorothy K. Hatch, 23 March 1968, BCD 1395:209.

⁷ Dorothy K. Hatch, 575 Route 6, to Phyllis H. White, 575 Route 6, 27 November 1992, BCD 8341:188; Phyllis H. White, 575 Route 6, to Peter A. Nelson, Accord NY, and Phyllis Hatch White, 575 Route 6, 5 March 2001, BCD 13625:55; Death Certificate, Phyllis Hatch White, BCD 26459:349.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2019 unless otherwise noted)



View from south.



View of barn from SE.